

Message Text

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16

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS AO

SUBJECT: MPLA LEADERS CALL FOR NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S LUANDA PRESS, 19 TOP OFFICIALS OF MPLA (NETO FACTION) ARE MEETING IN BRAZZAVILLE WITH NETO TO SEEK HIS SUPPORT FOR "NATIONAL CONGRESS" TO RESOLVE INTERNAL MPLA PROBLEMS. THESE ARE PRINCIPALLY ABOLITION OF NETO'S CULT OF PERSONALITY ("ABSOLUTE PRESIDENTIALISM") AND REUNIFICATION OF NETO'S FACTION WITH CHIPENDA FOLLOWERS.

2. PETITIONERS INCLUDE MANY OF MPLA'S FOUNDERS, MESTIZOS AND BLACKS, E.G., MARIO DE ANDRADE, PEDRO KANGA, MANUEL VIDEIRA, HUGO MENESES, REV. DOMINGO DA SILVA.

3. PETITIONERS REPORTEDLY HAVE PRESENTED NETO WITH AGENDA FOR CONGRESS WITH FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. RESTRUCTURING OF MOVEMENT'S POLITICAL PRINCIPLES.

B. ELIMINATION OF PRESIDENTIALISM, TO BE REPLACED BY COLLECTIVE

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LEADERSHIP.

C. UNIFICATION OF ALL PRESENT AND FORMER MPLA MEMBERS.

D. RESTRUCTURING OF MPLA ALONG DEMOCRATIC LINES.

E. CREATION OF UNITED FRONT FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SPECIFIC PROBLEMS SUCH AS CABINDA, ELIMINATION OF REGIONAL, TRIBAL AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND COOPERATION WITH NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE, GUINEA AND SAO TOME/PRINCIPE.

4. MEETING BETWEEN LEADERS AND NETO SAID TO HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY JOAQUIM PINTO DE ANDRADE WHO ARRIVED IN BRAZZAVILLE FROM LISBON LAST WEEK.

5. COMMENT: PETITION AS DESCRIBED IS RICH IN DETAILS CONCERNING WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION AMONG HIS PUTATIVE FOLLOWERS WITH NETO'S LEADERSHIP, AS WELL AS MPLA'S SKEPTICISM REGARDING LISBON'S REAL INTENTIONS TOWARDS ANGOLA. THE PETITION ALSO AMOUNTS TO A POLITICAL MANIFESTO ON BEHALF OF MPLA - I.E. THE SORT OF PUBLICITY MILITARY AUTHORITIES HERE HAVE SAID THEY WOULD NOT PERMIT TO BE CIRCULATED UNTIL MPLA CEASED MILITARY ACTIVITIES. ITS SUBSTANCE, HOWEVER - BOTH REGARDING NETO'S ALLEGED ABUSE OF POWER AND ADVOCACY OF A "RETURN TO DEMOCRACY" - IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH CURRENT EXPRESSIONS OF PORTUGUESE POLICY, AND IF ADOPTED, COULD SET STAGE FOR MPLA'S BEING ACCORDED SAME DEGREE OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION NOW ENJOYED BY PAIGC AND FRELIMO IN GUINEA AND MOZAMBIQUE.
BRIGGS

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